

For Immediate Release January 3, 2006

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## MAM AND MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PRESENT THE ANNUAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS EXHIBITION

Awards Ceremony Held at MAM on January 22, 2006, 3pm

Exhibition on view January 22 – February 12, 2006

Skip Art Basel's "containers" on Miami Beach, the fringe art fairs or Wynwood's alternative exhibition spaces – to discover Miami-Dade's truly emerging artists the place to be is the 2006 Scholastic Art Awards, January 22 through February 12, 2006 at Miami Art Museum.

The Miami-Dade County Public Schools Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition is an annual exhibit of artwork produced by Miami-Dade County high school and middle school students as part of the regional and national Scholastic Art Awards competition. Students from Miami-Dade County schools consistently rank among the top winners at the national level. Last year, students from Miami-Dade County schools won an unprecedented 31 national awards.

The regional awards ceremony will take place at MAM on Sunday, January 22, 2006, at 3 pm in conjunction with the exhibition.

"MAM set out from the beginning to develop particularly close ties with the schools of Miami-Dade County," Acting MAM Director Jose Garcia said. "We are very pleased to have contributed in some way to the development of the enormous amount of talent we see on display every year during the Scholastic Awards."

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards have been conducted annually since 1923 to reward the creative achievements of students in grades 7 through 12 and to recognize excellence in teaching. The awards – the longest running, largest and most prestigious student recognition program in America – were established by Maurice R. Robinson, founder of Scholastic Inc.

At the conclusion of this regional exhibition, top award-winning artworks are forwarded to the national program in New York City. Works of art and writing are submitted for the national jury process by 80 regions from across the United States. A distinguished panel of prominent artists, writers, and arts professionals selects the national awards. National awardees will be honored in New York.

Students from the Design and Architecture Senior High, Dr. Michael M. Krop Senior High, New World School of the Arts, Miami Palmetto Senior High, Gulliver Academy and Preparatory School, Southwood Middle School and South Miami Middle School were among those who placed highly in last year's regional awards. Many accomplished artists and writers are alumni of the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, including Richard Avedon, Truman Capote, Frances Farmer, Joyce Carol Oates, Sylvia Plath, Robert Redford, and Andy Warhol.

Miami Art Museum receives both private and public funding. More than 50 percent of its annual support comes from corporations, individuals, foundations and MAM members. MAM is sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts; with the support of the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs, the Cultural Affairs Council, the Mayor and the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners.

Miami Art Museum's educational programs for young people are supported by *Benefactors* The Heckscher Foundation for Children, Tina Hills *Donors* Bank of America; Carnival Corporation, Peacock Foundation, Inc. *Sponsors* Sue Miller, The Jim Moran Foundation *Patrons* Assurant Solutions, Blank Family Foundation, Inc., Fundación Cisneros, Publix Super Markets Charities *Contributors* Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Charitable Foundation, Suzanne Delehanty, Freedom Forum, Investor Solutions, MetLife Foundation, Watsco, Inc., Janet and Richard Yulman *Supporters* BankAtlantic Foundation, Citigroup Foundation *Friends of Education* Citizens Interested in Arts, Cricket and Marty Taplin, Macy's.

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